

Response
Serial No. 10/801,545
Attorney Docket No. 042195

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached replacement sheets of drawings include changes to Fig. 5.

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REMARKS

Allowed Subject Matter:

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that claims 3-5 and 11 were merely objected to as being dependent from a rejected base claim, and that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim and any intervening claim.

Objection to Drawings:

The drawings were objected to because Figure 5 was not designated as prior art.

Accordingly, Figure 5 has been amended to be designated as --Prior Art--.

Rejection under 35 USC §102(b):

Claims 1, 2 and 10 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Kosmatka.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 has been amended for clarification to recite “a high-rigidity portion which is disposed in said body portion on the side of said back of said elastically deformable portion for increasing the rigidity of said disposed portion and for restoring elastic deformation with repulsion force close to explosiveness.”

Kosmatka fails to disclose, among other things, "a high-rigidity portion" as recited in claim 1 of the present application. Kosmatka does not teach or suggest the combination of "the elastically deformable portion" and "the high-rigidity portion" in the present invention.

The golf club according to the present invention has the following function by the combination of "the elastically deformable portion" and "the high-rigidity portion." (See Page 21 Line 4- Page 23 Line 19 of the specification.)

In the present invention, a projecting-receding elastically deformable portion B is provided in the body, this configuration providing the body with significant concentration of elastic deformation.

The "elastically deformable portion" in claim 1 of the present invention, produces a corresponding elastic effect in comparison with the case of conventional configuration of face 4, for example, configuration in which the repulsion force was increased by reducing the thickness of the face 4. If the thickness of the face 4 is unreasonably decreased to increase the repulsion force, the rigidity of the head itself is reduced. The shape of the elastically deformable portion 13 is not limited to the aforesaid example. Any shape may be used provided that it produces an elastic effect. The projection-recess shape is preferable.

The reason for providing such a configuration with increased hardness will be described below. As mentioned above, the configuration that elastically deforms due to such as formation of a protrusion and a recess only in part of the body also has an increased repulsion force and provides a structure demonstrating in its unique way the aforesaid effect. However, even greater

effect is obtained if the repulsion force is made close to the state of explosiveness. The first embodiment makes this possible, and the configuration with increased rigidity will be explained based on FIG. 6.

As described above, providing a protrusion and a recess on the body increases the elastic force and also increases the coefficient of restitution. In the first embodiment, in addition to this configuration, a high-rigidity portion of the claim 1 is provided. Under the action of a load on part of a solid body, the quantity of deformation originating in this point is proportional to the value of the load, and a physical quantity represented by the inverse value of the proportionality coefficient is called the rigidity. Therefore, a high rigidity means a small quantity of deformation of the solid body, and a low rigidity means a high quantity of deformation of the solid body.

The projecting portion deforms elastically, but because rigidity is increased by the high-rigidity portion, the repulsion effect is further enhanced when a hitting force is received. In other words, the repulsion force becomes close to an explosiveness state and an effect of fast repulsion is demonstrated. If a hitting force is generated in the face 4, the projection and recess are deflected instantaneously due to a low rigidity thereof. Furthermore, because the back side of the projecting portion is made more rigid by the high-rigidity portion, if the hitting force is received, the back acts in the direction of instantaneously cancelling the deflection caused by low rigidity and functions so as to restore rapidly the original shape of the sole 3. Therefore, the repulsion force is increased and the travelling distance of the golf ball is extended.

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For at least these reasons, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Kosmatka. Claims 2 and 10, directly or indirectly depending from claim 1, also patentably distinguish over Kosmatka for at least the same reasons.

Therefore, the 35 USC §102(b) rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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